



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

News Release 06-46

Date: June 26, 2006

Contact: Dworshak Natural
Resource Office

Phone: (208) 476-1255

Enjoy safe, Fourth of July, outdoor fun at Dworshak Reservoir

OROFINO, Idaho – The upcoming July 4 holiday weekend is a great time to visit parks and recreation facilities at Dworshak Dam and Reservoir, operated by the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Outdoors enthusiasts can enjoy scenic north Idaho while taking advantage of picnicking, camping, fishing, boating and swimming opportunities at the reservoir.

Summer holidays are also a time to remember safety whenever playing in, on or near the water. Here are a few safety tips District park rangers hope visitors will remember while having fun at Corps lakes and recreation facilities: swim with a buddy, don't dive where you don't know what's under the surface, and don't consume intoxicants when operating recreational vessels. Boaters at Dworshak must ensure properly fitted personal floatation devices (life jackets) are on board for each person – children 14 and younger are required to wear PFDs when underway in boats up to 19 feet in length. State boating, hunting and fishing regulations apply to visitors at Corps sites. Hunting on Corps property is allowed in designated areas only.

Corps recreation facilities attract many visitors and to make the experience a safe and happy one for everybody, a few rules apply, because safety is everyone's responsibility. Enjoy the facilities but remember that fireworks are not allowed on Corps property. Recreation officials encourage visitors to attend local fireworks displays in the communities near the parks.

Hunting is allowed on Corps property around the reservoir, except in developed recreation areas. All Idaho State boating, hunting and fishing regulations apply to visitors at Dworshak Reservoir. All-terrain vehicle (ATV) operation is prohibited off designated roads, and behind gates or fences.

"Please follow all safety precautions while recreating in the forest during the hunting season," said Corps Park Ranger Deb Norton. "When boating on the reservoir, remember that lake levels can change quickly. The weather may be warm, but the water in Dworshak is still very cold from the spring snowmelt and runoff."

Some areas have local restrictions on open fires, so remember to check with park managers and rangers when visiting. Leave firearms and other weapons at home. Corps park rangers, as well as local law enforcement officials, will be patrolling throughout the holiday weekend to assist visitors.

Recreation areas associated with Dworshak Dam and Reservoir are listed below:

Dworshak Visitor Center – During the summer (Memorial Day through Labor Day) the visitor center is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with a tour available at 1 p.m. daily. *Facilities:* interpretive displays, movies, scenic view points, day-use area, tables, shade, flush toilets, drinking water and public phone. There is no visitor access to other areas of the dam. *Getting there:* drive 5 miles west of Orofino, Idaho, on Highway 7; turn right onto View Point Road and follow visitor center signs for about 2 miles; the Visitor Center is adjacent to the north dam abutment; located at North Fork Clearwater River Mile 2, North River Bank.

Mini-Camps – open spring through fall months, with no specific hours of operation. *Facilities:* over 100 primitive camp sites available along the shoreline. Most are only accessible by boat. **NOTE: the reserving of mini-camp sites along the Dworshak Reservoir shoreline is prohibited. The early placement of camping**

-more -

Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824

Website: www.nwww.usace.army.mil

E-mail: cenwww-pa@usace.army.mil

Dworshak\2-2-2

equipment at mini-camp sites to ensure a spot for the July 4th weekend can result in the removal of the camping equipment or a citation. *Getting there:* there are various mini-camp locations on each bank of the lake. Call Dworshak staff at (208) 476-1261 for site-specific information.

Big Eddy – open year round, with no specific hours of operation. *Facilities:* day use area, swim beach, playground, restrooms, marina, boat ramp, picnic areas and sun shelters. *Getting there:* drive 6 miles west of Orofino, Idaho, on Highway 7; turn right onto View Point Road and follow signs for about 3 miles to Big Eddy; located at North Fork Clearwater River Mile 3, West River Bank.

Bruces Eddy – open year round, with no specific hours of operation during summer. *Facilities:* day use area, restrooms and two boat ramps. *Getting there:* drive 5 miles west of Orofino, Idaho, on Highway 7; pass Dworshak National Fish Hatchery; turn right just before the bridge at Ahsahka and go 2 miles uphill on the "A" Road to Bruces Eddy; located at North Fork Clearwater River Mile 2, South River Bank.

Canyon Creek – open spring through fall months, with no specific hours of operation. *Facilities:* primitive camping area with 17 sites, vault toilets, picnic tables and fire rings, and boat ramp. *Getting there:* drive 11 miles north of Orofino, Idaho; follow Wells Bench Road 5 miles, turn left and follow signs to Canyon Creek Campground. Portions of the road are gravel; located at North Fork Clearwater River Mile 7, South River Bank.

Dam View – open spring through fall months, with no specific hours of operation. *Facilities:* primitive camping area located near Visitors Center, vault toilet, picnic tables and fire rings. *Getting there:* drive 6 miles west of Orofino, Idaho, on Highway 7; turn right onto View Point Road and follow signs toward Big Eddy, just past the visitor center road, turn right; located near the West River Bank of North Fork Clearwater River.

Dent Acres – open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. during summer months. **NOTE: all reservable sites have been reserved for the 4th of July weekend, there are 8 other sites available on a first come-first served basis;** *Facilities:* boat ramp, sun shelter, playground, full hook-up camp sites (water, electricity and sewer), sewer dump station, hot showers, picnic tables, grills, fish-cleaning stations and accepts Golden Age/Golden Access passports. *Getting there:* drive 19 miles north of Orofino, Idaho, on Wells Bench Road; located on the North River Bank of North Fork Clearwater River Mile 14.

Dent Acres Group Camp – open from May 1 through September 30, or upon special request. Hours of operation are from 6a.m. to 10p.m. during the summer. *Facilities:* primitive campground available for large groups, has vault toilets, sun shelter, picnic tables and fire rings. Reservations can be made by calling (877) 444-6777, or by visiting Reserve USA's Web site at www.ReserveUSA.com. *Getting there:* drive 18 miles north of Orofino, Idaho, on Wells Bench Road; located on the North River Bank of North Fork Clearwater River Mile 15.

Grandad – open spring through fall months, subject to weather and road conditions. *Facilities:* primitive campground with 12 sites, vault toilets, picnic tables, grills and boat ramp. *Getting there:* drive east of Orofino, Idaho, to Headquarters – from Headquarters, there are two possible routes – drive 23 miles north on Silver Creek Road, **or** continue north 4 miles on Beaver Creek Road and take Grandad turnoff – there are many miles of gravel road and few signs; located on the North Fork Clearwater River Mile 40, South River Bank.

Merrys Bay – open spring through fall months, subject to weather and road conditions. *Facilities:* day use area, vault toilets, fire rings and picnic tables. *Getting there:* drive 4 miles north of Orofino, Idaho, on Eureka Ridge Road. Access road is gravel and may be impassable during wet conditions; located on the North Fork Clearwater River Mile 2.5, South River Bank.

For updated water level and boat ramp information, call (800) 321-3198. For more information regarding facilities access and current conditions, call Dworshak staff at (208) 476-1261, or stop by the visitor center, which is open Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Reservations for the regular season can be made by calling (877) 444-6777, or by visiting Reserve USA's Web site at www.ReserveUSA.com.

Make it a safe and happy holiday weekend for everybody. For more information about Walla Walla District's outdoor recreation opportunities, check out their Web site at: <http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/corpsoutdoors/>